

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /091 W

-----152156Z 041354 /63

R 151420Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2752

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, PLO

SUBJECT: PNC: REJECTIONIST DISRUPTIONS

REF: CAIRO 4329 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PFLP IS LEADING SMALL REJECTIONIST LBOC'S OPEN CHALLENGE TO MODERATES AT PNC. OFFICIAL PFLP SPOKESMAN CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE TO WARN PFLP WILL WITHDRAW FROM PLO IF PNC ACCEPTS EXISTENCE ISRAEL. ARAFAT SEEKING MODERATE THE IMMODERATES. HE APPARENTLY SEEKING DIVERT DIVISIVE DEBATE FROM PLENARY FLOOR INTO COMMITTEES. TOO EARLY TO TELL EITHER IF PFLP WILL CAVE IN AND AGREE BE COOPTED INTO PEACE PROCESS (UNLIKELY), OR WHETHER  
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ARAFAT WILL CAVE IN AND DOWNPLAY MODERATION TO SAVE PLO "UNITY".  
END SUMMARY

1. REJECTIONISTS, LED BY PFLP, HAVE WASTED NO TIME IN CHALLENGING PREVAILING MODERATE REPRESENTATION AT PNC.
2. PFLP OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN BASSAM ABU SHARIF HELD PRESS CONFERENCE

MARCH 13 WARNING THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WILL WITHDRAW FROM PLO IF GENEVA INVITATION ACCEPTED OR EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL RECOGNIZED. HE CALLED INTER ALIA FOR STRUGGLE AGAINST HKJ AND SYRIA AND FOR ALIGNMENT WITH USSR. BASSAM'S REMARKS ARE NOT REPORTED IN LOCAL MORNING PRESS MARCH 14, BUT ALL PAPERS MAKE CLEAR REJECTIONISTS ARE OPENLY CHALLENGING ARAFAT. (EGYPTIAN VIEW OF THIS REJECTIONISM CREEPS INTO AKHBAR ARTICLE WHICH NOTES REJECTIONISTS ARE CALLING FOR CHANGE IN PLO COMMAND AND THUS WORKING TO PROMOTE LIBYAN ASPIRATIONS.)

3. FURTHER EVIDENCE OUTSPOKEN CHALLENGE TO ARAFAT IS CONTAINED IN PFLP WRITTEN THREAT WITHDRAW FROM PLO IF PNC SOFT ON PALESTINE (PARA 2, REFTTEL) AND BY RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY PFLP'S TAYSIR QUBA' TO PLENARY MARCH 13 ON "UNNATURAL" WAY IN WHICH PRESENT PNC MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN EXPANDED.

4. ARAFAT REACTION. SEEKING DEAL WITH DISRUPTIONS WHICH SMALL REJECTIONIST BLOC HAVE ACHIEVED, ARAFAT REPAIRED TO MERIDIEN HOTEL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WHERE HE CONVOKED HIGH LEVEL STRATEGY MEETING. ATTENDEES REPORTEDLY INCLUDED SAI'QA'S MUHSIN, PDFLP'S HAWATIMA, AND PFLP/GC'S JIBRIL (WE UNDERSTAND PFLP REP ALSO PRESENT). GUMHURIYYA REPORTS ARAFAT CONCENTRATED ON HOW CONDUCT MARCH 15 SESSION (WHICH WILL REPORTEDLY DEBATE QADDUMI'S POLITICAL REPORT --SEE BELOW) SO AS AVOID "EXPLOSION."

5. TEN NEW COMMITTEES. EXISTENCE, BUT NOT MEMBERSHIP, OF NEW COMMITTEES ARE ANNOUNCED IN PRESS AS FOLLOWS: FINANCE, EDUCATION, ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL, SOCIAL AFFAIRS/LABOR, NATIONAL UNITY, "POPULAR ORGANIZATION", INFORMATION/CULTURE, OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITARY AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS. LOCAL REPORTING ON THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT IMPLIES THAT ARAFAT MAY HAVE CREATED COMMITTEES TO AVOID DIVISIVE DEBATE IN PLENARY (WHERE REJECTIONISTS PRESUMABLY HARDER TO HANDLE AND HAVE MORE IMPACT). OBSERVERS ARE REMARKING THAT NEW COMMITTEES COULD EASILY BE SHIFTED TO FUNCTION AS SECRETARIATS FOR MINISTERS OF A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE.

6. NEW EXCOMM. GUMHURIYYA SPECULATES FOUR MEMBERS WILL BE CHANGED AND TOTAL EXPANDED TO 15 (FROM PRESENT 12, EXCLUDING EXPELLED KAYYALI OF ALF AND PFLP'S YAMANI). WE UNDERSTAND PFLP PRESSING HARD FOR SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATION ON EXCOMM. (AS FAR AS WE AWARE, YAMANI NEVER RESUMED HIS SEAT, SO PFLP NOW TOTALLY UNREPRESENTED.) ARAFAT HAS BEEN SEEKING BRING HARD LINE REJECTIONISTS INTO THE COMMAND SO AS TO INVOLVE THEM IN THE PEACE PROCESS, BUT JUDGING FROM PRELIMINARY PFLP MANEUVERING, THEIR PRICE FOR COOPTION MAY BE TOO HIGH, WHICH, ON PAST TRACK RECORD, MEANS ARAFAT LIKELY TOUGHEN MODERATE LINE TO AVOID BREAK UP OF PLO. TOO EARLY TO

TELL, HOWEVER, HOW MUCH BACKBONE ARAFAT WILL EXHIBIT.

7. EXCOMM REPORT. QADDUMI'S 33 PAGE POLITICAL REPORT PROVIDED TO MARCH 14 SESSION HAS SEVEN POINT PLO PROGRAM AND SIX POINT DESCRIPTION OF WHAT ARAFAT SUPPOSEDLY TOLD WALDHEIM. MOST ARE OLD PROPAGANDA POINTS BUT WE NOTE THAT PLO CONDITIONS FOR ATTENDING MEPC NOT ONLY INCLUDE DEMAND THAT MEPC MUST BE HELD ON BROADER BASIS THAN RESOLUTION 242/338 BUT ALOS, ACCORDING PRESS, INVITATION MUST INDIVICATE AGENDA AND PALESTINE MUST BE SPECIFIC ITEM ON THAT AGENDA. "ZIONIST ENEMY" MUST BE ISOLATED ('AZL) IN WORLD FORUMS. EFFORTS AIMING AT TYING PALESTINIAN ISSUE TO TEXT OF 242 MUST BE MADE TO FAIL. PLO TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT SOLVE ME PROBLEM JUSTLY, BUT "RIGHTS OF PALESTNIAN PEOPLE MUST BE SECURED."

8. WEST BANK ATTENDANCE. SENIOR ARAB LEAGUE POFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO US THAT THERE ARE NO WEST BANK DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE "BECAUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF GOI REFUSAL TO ALLOW ANY WEST BANK RESIDENTS TO RETURN FROM CAIRO." HE ADDED THAT FREELY ELECTED WEST BANK OFFICIALS HAVE PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT FOR PLO IN STEEMENT FROM WEST BANK MAYORS READ TO PNC BYFAHUM. AHRAM REPORTED THAT MANY MESSAGES WERE RECEIVED FROM "STRUGGLERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" AS WELL AS GREETINGS FROM TITO AND CHAIRMAN HUA. MATTHEWS

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## Message Attributes

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